

ABSTRACT

An image decoding apparatus includes a decoder having a decoding data storage register for holding decoding data corresponding to a target VOP to be decoded, and decoding a video stream corresponding to the target VOP on the basis of the decoding data stored in the register. The image decoding apparatus also includes a first memory having plural storage regions for holding decoding data corresponding to plural objects.

10 The decoding data are transferred between the decoding data storage register in the decoder and a specific storage region in the first memory. Therefore, it is possible to perform decoding on a video stream including plural objects by using a single decoder. Further, even when the number of objects to be decoded

15 is increased, storage regions for decoding data corresponding to the increased objects can easily be increased.